



5 Daily Devotionals

Day 1: When Faith Feels Shaken

Key Verse:

“Where is God when I am suffering?” (See Psalm 13:1)

Reflection:

There are moments in life when faith feels fragile. In seasons of pain, loss, or confusion, even strong believers can find themselves asking hard questions: *Where is God? Why is this happening?* These questions aren't signs of weak faith—they are the cries of a heart that is wrestling honestly with God.

Scripture is filled with people who asked the same things. The psalmists cried out in anguish. Job questioned deeply. Even faithful followers have moments of doubt. God is not afraid of your questions; He invites them. He meets you in the struggle, not after you've figured everything out.

Suffering can become a stumbling block when we expect life to always make sense or always feel good. But faith is not built on perfect understanding—it is built on trust in a faithful God. Even when you cannot see His hand, you can trust His heart.

Prayer:

Lord, when my faith feels shaken and my questions feel heavy, remind me that You are near. Help me to bring my doubts honestly before You and to trust You even when I don't understand. Amen.

Day 2: God Is Not a Vending Machine

Key Verse:

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.” (Psalm 103:13)

Reflection:

It’s easy to fall into the mindset that if we “do the right things”—pray, go to church, read Scripture—then life should go smoothly. When it doesn’t, we may feel like something is broken. But God is not a vending machine where we insert obedience and receive comfort on demand.

He is a loving Father. And a good father does not say “yes” to everything his children ask. Sometimes love means saying “no,” or “not yet,” or allowing difficulty for a greater purpose.

The truth is simple but powerful: **God is good, even when life is hard.** When we reverse that—expecting life to be easy and concluding God is distant when it isn’t—we misunderstand His nature.

God’s goodness is not measured by your circumstances. It is revealed most clearly in His steadfast love, His promises, and ultimately in Christ. Even in hardship, He remains faithful.

Prayer:

Father, forgive me for the times I’ve misunderstood You. Teach me to trust Your wisdom and Your love, even when life doesn’t go the way I expect. Amen.

Day 3: God Works Through What Is Broken

Key Verse:

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” (Romans 8:28)

Reflection:

You’ve likely heard the phrase, “Everything happens for a reason.” But that statement can be misleading. Not everything that happens is good. Evil, sin, and suffering are real—and they grieve the heart of God.

Yet here is the deeper truth: **God works through all things for good.**

This means God does not call evil good—but He is powerful enough to redeem it. What is broken in this world does not have the final word. God can bring light out of darkness, hope out of despair, and purpose out of pain.

We may not always see how He is working, especially in the moment. Some answers may remain hidden this side of eternity. But His promise stands: nothing is wasted in His hands.

The cross itself is the greatest example—what looked like defeat became the very means of salvation. If God can redeem that, He can redeem anything in your life.

Prayer:

God, when I face things that feel senseless or painful, help me trust that You are still at work. Give me faith to believe that You can bring good even from what is broken. Amen.

Day 4: When You Have No Strength Left

Key Verse:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Reflection:

Our culture tells us to be strong, to push through, to rely on ourselves. But suffering has a way of exposing the limits of that mindset. There are moments when no amount of determination or self-effort is enough.

And that’s exactly where God meets you.

One of the hidden purposes of suffering is that it draws us out of self-reliance and into dependence on Him. When your strength runs out, you begin to discover His. When you fall to your knees, you are finally in a position to look up.

This is not failure—it is faith. To say, “I cannot do this on my own” is the beginning of real spiritual life.

God’s power is not given to those who think they have it all together, but to those who know they need Him. His grace is not a backup plan—it is your lifeline.

Prayer:

Lord, I confess that I often try to rely on myself. Teach me to depend fully on You. When I am weak, remind me that Your strength is enough. Amen.

Day 5: You Are Not Meant to Walk Alone

Key Verse:

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

Reflection:

Suffering can feel isolating. Even in a connected world, many people walk through life alone—without deep relationships or spiritual support. But God never intended for His people to live that way.

He places us in community so that we can carry one another through difficult seasons. When your faith feels weak, someone else can remind you of God’s promises. When you feel alone, others can surround you with prayer and presence.

Community is one of the ways God delivers His comfort. It becomes a channel through which His Word, His encouragement, and His care flow into your life.

If you’re struggling, don’t withdraw. Lean in. Reach out. Let others walk with you.

And if you’re in a place of strength right now, be that presence for someone else.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of community. Help me to both receive support and offer it to others. Use Your people to remind me that I am never alone. Amen.

Small Group Discussion

Icebreaker

Think of a time when something difficult happened in your life. Looking back, did your perspective on that situation change over time? How so?

Key Idea

We often hear, *“Everything happens for a reason.”* While it’s true that God can work through all things, not everything that happens is good. Scripture teaches that God is good—even when life is hard—and that He works in the midst of brokenness for His purposes.

What Does the Bible Say?

- **God works through all things (not that all things are good):**
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...” — Romans 8:28
 - **Suffering produces growth:**
“Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” — Romans 5:3–4
 - **God is with you in hardship:**
“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” — Matthew 28:20
 - **We are not meant to rely on ourselves:**
“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” — 2 Corinthians 12:9
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Three Truths About Suffering

1. God Is Not a Vending Machine

We don’t earn blessings by “doing the right things.” God is a loving Father who answers according to His wisdom—not our expectations.

2. God Uses Suffering to Draw Us to Him

Hard seasons expose our limits and lead us away from self-reliance and toward dependence on God.

3. God Can Work Through Suffering for His Purposes

- To grow our faith (Romans 5:3–4)
 - To reveal His glory (John 9:3; John 11:4)
 - To strengthen others through our witness (Job 1–2)
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Discussion Questions

1. When you hear “everything happens for a reason,” what emotions or thoughts come to mind?
 2. Why do you think suffering can become a stumbling block for faith?
 3. Which is harder for you: trusting God’s goodness or trusting His timing? Why?
 4. How have you seen God bring something meaningful out of a difficult situation?
 5. What does it look like practically to rely on God instead of yourself?
 6. Why is Christian community important during difficult seasons? How can this group support one another better?
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Living It Out This Week

- **Plug into God’s Word:** Set aside time daily to read Scripture and reflect on His promises.
 - **Pray honestly:** Bring your real questions and struggles to God.
 - **Stay connected:** Reach out to someone in this group this week—don’t walk alone.
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Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are good, even when life is hard. When we face suffering and don’t understand why, help us to trust in Your promises rather than our feelings. Draw us away from relying on ourselves and teach us to depend fully on You. Strengthen our faith through Your Word, and surround us with people who will remind us of Your truth. Use even our hardships for Your purposes and Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.